

Memo

To: Surveillance File
From: Karen Chandler
Date: October 21, 2004
Subject: Check of Manholes around the Facilities at 1051 S. Grant and 1042 S. Douglas

This morning Shirley Reser, of OACAC Headstart (864-3430), called and said they had a baby who had a seizure at the Grant Street facility yesterday. She said over the past few years there had been several children who had had seizures in the buildings. She was wondering if there was some kind of environmental problem causing this, or if this is just a coincidence. She had called Karl Barke, talked to him about this, and he also referred her to us. Shirley told me some of the personnel sometimes smelled odors, but they were always outside. Apparently one of the workers smelled an ammonia smell and another smelled a rotten egg smell. I said if someone is getting an ammonia smell, it was possible that methamphetamine was being manufactured somewhere in the neighborhood. She told me Karl also mentioned this. I suggested to her that she call CU and have them check the gas meters and also check the furnaces for carbon monoxide. I told her I would check the sewers in the area and would also check our surveillance files to see if there had ever been any environmental problems at these addresses. She was going to check with the Greene County Assessor's office to see what businesses had been there before them. Their two Headstart buildings are about five years old. I checked manholes (we map P18NE) around the buildings with both the Bacharach meter and the Drager meter (for CO and H₂S) and got the following results:

Grant Street

MH 51 (end of the line)	No flow, no odor
MH 50 (10:44 a.m.)	0% L.E.L (B. Meter)
	0 ppm (D. Meter)
	Slight solvent odor
MH 48 (10:56 a.m.)	0% L.E.L (B. Meter)
	0 ppm (D. Meter)
	Slight solvent odor
MH 52(11:05 a.m.)	0% L.E.L (B. Meter)
	0 ppm (D. Meter)
	Sewer odor

I talked to Larry Gibson, of the Health Department, while checking the MHs on Grant. He said City Utilities had been there and checked the meters and furnace and couldn't find a problem. He was going to go to the Grant Avenue Pet Hospital to see if any of the animals there had ever had seizures.

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Douglas Street

MH 32 (11:10 a.m.)

0% L.E.L (B. Meter)
0 ppm (D. Meter)
Sewer odor

MH 33 (11:15 a.m.)

0% L.E.L (B. Meter)
0 ppm (D. Meter)
Low O₂ alarm
Sewer odor

MH 34 (11:20 a.m.)

0% L.E.L (B. Meter)
0 ppm (D. Meter)
Sewer odor

I talked to Helen Swadley, the director of school, after checking the manholes and told her I didn't find anything unusual. We went into the room where the baby had the seizure and I checked it with the Drager meter, but didn't get any readings. We also went to one of the furnace rooms, because they had forgotten to have the City Utilities inspector check the second furnace. I didn't get any readings on my meter. I talked to Helen about different routes sewer gas could get into a building; floor drains, toilet seals, etc. She said they put water in the floor drains once a month.

I went to the Grant Avenue Pet Hospital and asked the personnel at the front desk if they ever washed any veterinary chemicals down the City sewer line. They don't dispose of chemicals in that way.

I checked our surveillance files for problems in this area. The only thing I could find in that area occurred in 1975, when service stations on the corner of Grant and Grand had to have their lines and tanks checked. I called Shirley Reser back and told her what I had found.



Karen Chandler
IPP



